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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

16 November 1973

Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Baker:

In your letter of 8 November 1973 to me you referred to an article by Andrew St. George in the November 1973 issue of Harper's magazine entitled "The Cold War Comes Home." You asked for my assessment of the accuracy of the material covered in the last chapter headed "Supplanting the CIA." You also requested answers to seven questions which were prompted by statements in that story. The answers to those questions are enclosed.

Mr. St. George's statement that, "In the early fall of 1969, CIA memoranda of the most elaborate and ambitious sort began to return from the White House with evaluative comments like 'Crap' and 'Utter garbage' scribbled across their faces in Dr. Kissinger's own hand." is false. When Dr. Kissinger came to the White House he had some criticisms of specific CIA papers and often returned them with specific comments, requests for development or clarification, or challenges to the theses presented. He also was highly complimentary on a number of other CIA papers during the same period. All of this was read here as being part of the normal process of adjustment from one Administration to another.


Dr. Kissinger has been interested in field data but he never indicated that he "...no longer wanted a finished NIE [National Intelligence Estimate] on some essential area of conflict...." CIA produces Intelligence Memoranda, some of which are intended for the

President. It, in conjunction with the other intelligence agencies, produces National Intelligence Estimates, some of which also would be expected to reach the President. Both series are considered highly important and both are produced using all the resources available to the intelligence community. Until recently, estimates were prepared by a separate, elite Office of National Estimates. This has now been dissolved, but the concept of National Estimates has not changed, however, and they are still being produced by essentially the same procedures as in past years. Both Memoranda and Estimates have regularly been requested by and prepared for Dr. Kissinger and the NSC Staff throughout the Nixon Administrations.

Mr. St. George's account of the notification to former CIA Director Richard Helms regarding the Watergate breakin is untrue. As indicated in the answer to the second question, Mr. Helms has testified before your Committee that it is his recollection that he first heard about the Watergate breakin by reading about it in the newspapers and hearing about it on the radio. As far as his knowledge regarding the possible involvement of former staff employees Hunt and McCord, he has testified that he first learned of this in a telephone call from the Agency's Director of Security, Mr. Howard Osborn, sometime around 2200 hours on 17 June 1972. I have communicated with Mr. Helms since the receipt of your letter and he has again verified his recollection of these events as I have described them above.

I trust that the above information and the answers to your questions are responsive to your inquiry. If you feel there is anything further I can do, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,


W. E. Colby
Director

Enclosures

Distribution:

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